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CIA Says It Doesn't Employ Powers; U-2 Pilot Drops From Public View

Francis Gary Powers, former U-2 pilot downed over Russia, is no longer in the employ of the Central Intelligence Agency, a CIA spokesman said yesterday, and seems to have dropped out of public view.

Powers, who was working for the CIA after his release from a Soviet prison in February, resigned from the agency Oct. 6 and apparently has left the Washington area.

Col. Stanley J. Grogan, assistant CIA director, said Powers' last address was Hunting Towers in Alexandria, but that the Agency did not know at present of his whereabouts.

Employees at the Alexandria apartment gave Powers' forwarding address as that of his sister, Janice Melvin, in Falls Church, but she was equally reticent about where Powers might be.

Powers' lawyer, reached in Norton, Va., said there was no "real mystery" about his whereabouts, but said "If the CIA doesn't want to tell, I don't think I should infringe upon his rights." He said Powers "wanted to be alone," and that he is "safe and in good health."

Powers sued his wife, Barbara, for divorce last August. She filed a countersuit, and both cases are expected to be heard in Milledgeville, Ga., sometime in January.